



# MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Nov. 25, 2005

## Martin Kress named executive director of NSSTC

**M**artin P. Kress, a former deputy director at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, has been named executive director of the National Space Science and Technology Center in Huntsville.



Martin Kress

Kress most recently was vice president and relationship manager of the NASA/Space Group

with the National Security Division of Battelle Science and Technology International in Columbus, Ohio. Battelle is a global, not-for-profit research enterprise that develops and commercializes technologies and manages laboratories nationwide for its government and industry customers.

The challenge of operating an innovative science institute and helping expand its research portfolio is what motivated Kress to join the Huntsville science center, he said.

"I see an opportunity to do some very

innovative things at the NSSTC," Kress said. "I'm intrigued by the fact that we can create an innovative science and technology model well-aligned with the needs of NASA and other key federal agencies."

"We're pleased and honored to bring Marty Kress to Huntsville to lead the NSSTC," said Marshall Center Director David King. "For five years, it has established itself as a leading national resource, conducting some of the most important scientific endeavors

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## King and Henderson visit two NASA Explorer Schools

By Sheri Bechtel

Marshall Center Director David King and Associate Director Robin Henderson found themselves back in elementary school recently — but as "teachers" rather than students.

King and Henderson have visited two of NASA's Explorer Schools this month, sharing the agency's future exploration goals and the Vision for Space Exploration with hundreds of students, teachers and parents. They were joined by former astronaut Dr. Roger Crouch, a veteran of two space shuttle missions who has logged more than 471 hours in space.

The school visits were part of NASA's Explorer School Program, a national effort to engage students with hands-on classroom projects and computer-based math and science tutorials that teach problem-solving skills and demonstrate real-life challenges faced by NASA engineers.

Henderson visited Harris Health and Science Specialty Elementary School in North Little Rock, Ark., Nov. 17-18. Harris Elementary includes pre-school through fifth-grade students. King visited Hobgood Elementary School in Murfreesboro, Tenn., Nov. 21-22. The school includes kindergarten through sixth-grade students. Both schools were named NASA Explorer Schools in early 2005.

*See Explorer Schools on page 2*



Doug Stoffer/MSFC

## Marshall Center exceeds CFC goal

Marshall Center Deputy Director Charles Chitwood presents an oversized check — symbolizing the \$583,869 donated by Marshall Center employees to the Combined Federal Campaign — to Donna Johnson, chairperson of the Tennessee Valley CFC. The presentation was part of an event in Morris Auditorium Nov. 17, signifying the end of the annual effort to raise money for non-profit groups. The money

raised eclipsed the campaign goal of \$575,000. Activities at the finale event included a slide show, door prizes and a friendly "team spirit" competition, which pitted alumni from different schools in a cheering competition, won by alumni from the University of Alabama. Employees may still donate to the CFC until Dec. 15. For more information, visit <http://cfc.msfc.nasa.gov>.

# Marshall offers targeted buyout to eligible employees through Dec. 9

By Rita Roberts

The Marshall Center is offering its civil service employees a buyout opportunity worth up to \$25,000 for eligible employees. The buyout application period began Nov. 8 and ends Dec. 9.

This buyout, like the two proceeding, is one step among many which the Marshall Center is taking to rebalance its workforce to better support the NASA space exploration mission. This is a targeted buyout intended to reduce excess capacity in certain competency areas and not all employees are eligible.

Employees with competencies that are in excess of those needed to perform current or projected assignments will be eligible to receive a separation incentive. In addition, employees in targeted positions may also opt to take early retirement, if eligible.

To be eligible for one of the 186 buyout opportunities now available, permanent employees must have three years of continuous service with the Federal Government. Eligibility also will be based on an employee's primary competency in the Competency Management System. Priorities have been established as follows:

Priority I: Targeted competencies associated with research and

technology and technician support.

Priority II: All remaining competencies.

Eligibility will then be based upon:

Grade,

Organization and

Office of Personnel Management position title.

If the number of buyout applications exceeds the buyout limit established for a particular competency, approval will be based on the following "tiebreaker" criteria, in priority order:

Grade levels GS-14 and GS-15,

Eligibility for optional retirement,

Eligibility for early-out retirement and

Federal service computation date.

For more on eligibility, buyout applications, tiebreaker criteria and other pertinent information, visit [http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/buyout\\_fy2006/](http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/buyout_fy2006/). Applications for buyout must be submitted to Edwina Bressette no later than close of business Dec. 9, 2005.

*The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Public and Employee Communications Office.*

## Explorer Schools

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During their visits, King, Henderson and Crouch talked with students about how science and space research enhance everyday life on Earth. They also emphasized the important role today's students will play as the next generation of explorers, and discussed career opportunities students can pursue at NASA.

Created in 2003, the Explorer School Program is a three-year partnership between NASA and selected schools that provides

opportunities and materials for teachers to enhance their curricula and spark student interest in science, math, engineering and technology. NASA selects schools each year to participate in the program. To date, there are 128 Explorer Schools in 46 states and the District of Columbia. More than 40,000 students are involved in the program.

*The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Public and Employee Communications Office.*



Barbara Sales, left, principal of Hobgood Elementary in Murfreesboro, Tenn., receives a shuttle model from Marshall Center Director David King. At the right are Marilyn Mathis, superintendent of Murfreesboro City Schools, and David Hopper, chairman of the School Board.



Robin Henderson, associate director of Marshall, and astronaut Robert Crouch are greeted by students at Harris Elementary in North Little Rock, Ark.



## Marshall marks Native American Heritage Month



Emmett Given/MSFC

Examining an authentic Cherokee ceremonial mask are, from left, Jerald Kerby, Karen Russell, Chanel Leslie and Jerry Davis, all Marshall team members. The mask is part of a collection on display in the lobby of Building 4200 in observance of Native American Heritage Month. Team Redstone will hold its annual Native American Heritage Month event Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 9:30 a.m. in the Missile and Space Intelligence Center auditorium in Building 4544. The guest speaker is "Spirit Warrior," who will be featured in the December 2005 film "The New World." Transportation for Marshall team members will be provided from Building 4200. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at 544-0091.

### Annual tree lighting ceremony Nov. 30

Marshall team members are invited to help Marshall Deputy Director Charles Chitwood kick off the holiday season at the annual tree lighting ceremony.

The event will be in front of Building 4200 at 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30.

### MARS Christmas dance, dinner will be Dec. 3

The MARS Christmas dance and dinner will be Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Von Braun Center. A social begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7. Dancing will be from 8 to 11 p.m. Semi-formal attire is requested. Reserved tickets cost \$20 for MARS members and \$25 for non-members. Tickets are available through Nov. 29 by calling Gerald Maxwell at 544-1954.

## Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue is 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

### Miscellaneous

Two sinks, 3 commodes, 5-gal. beer can, water cooler, \$50; trampoline, \$150. 828-4251

Two Cherry swivel bar chairs, \$40 each; large white book case, adjustable, \$45. 603-3558

John Deere LT150 lawn tractor w/bagger and chute, used 10 times, \$2,000 firm. 837-5035

Leather bomber jacket, brown, men's size 1X, \$75. 837-0037

Antique upright piano w/mirror top, few missing ivories, good mechanical action, \$100 or free to church. 318-5372

Sapphire blue fabric, washable stretch velveteen w/sparkles, 32 yards, 60" wide. 852-2313

Leather sofa, tan, \$450. 256-746-8289

Craftsman workbench, lighted/powerd, new in box, best offer; wedding dress w/veil, size 8, \$100. 776-9165

Antique Oak dresser w/beveled mirror, 4-drawers, \$275. 353-0370

Nintendo 64 system w/two controllers, \$25; Cabelas Camo Dry-Plus bibs, adult large, \$75. 880-7305

Longaberger baskets; Easter, Mother's Day and others. 256-509-6174

German Sebo commercial upright vacuum cleaner, \$150. 883-1667/6-9 p.m.

Snapper Hi-Vac riding mower, Tecumseh industrial engine, bagger attachment, \$195. 851-7406

Emerson stereo color TV, 27", Model EWF2074, in original box, \$150. 874-1131

Traverse metal curtain rod including drapery rings & drawstring w/golden colored formal draperies, \$50. 880-3737

Bassett bedroom suite; nightstand, dresser, chest, headboard, including full-size mattress, dark wood, \$350. 655-3065

SoundTech rack mount electronic crossover, new, never used, \$100; Samson 700-watt power amp, new, \$300. 303-3702

Black fireplace tools and black /brass wood holder, unused, \$50. 829-0285

Interior bi-fold door set, 60"x80-5/8", new in box. 651-5847

GE profile washer and dryer set, Almond, \$395. 533-5942  
Toyoset Kero-Sun portable kerosene heater, never used, \$60. 851-0893

Maytag gas clothes dryer, \$85. 536-7906

### Vehicles

2004 Honda Civic EX, loaded, 36 mpg average, \$16,500. 233-6197

2004 F150 Supercab XLT, 5.4L/V8, tow package, Line-X, 35.5K miles, \$23,900. 880-9754

1993 Chrysler Concorde LX, \$1,300; 1991 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer, \$2,000. 721-5983/Bill

1999 Ford Explorer XLS, 4x4, 4-door, towing package, 81.3K miles, \$8,100. 353-3229

1992 Chevrolet Silverado, extended cab, SWB pickup, 162K miles, V6, 5-speed, beige, \$4,200. 895-9589

1986 Pontiac Fiero, V6, 4-speed, black/tan, all power options, 98K miles, \$3,800. 837-8003

1989 Champion bass boat, 18'6", dual console, Mariner 175HP, TM/DF, tournament ready, \$5,600. 837-4136

### Wanted

Rohn 25 tower, will come & take down. 256-656-2965

Leather or faux leather sectional, doesn't have to be perfect. 653-8886

Pre-1988 Chevy/GMC 4x4 SWB pickup in good condition, prefer step-side bed. 683-9364

### Lost

Lever back diamond earrings; if found please return to Estella Smith. 544-7322

### Free

Golden Retriever mix, female, 6-months old, spayed, immunized. 971-3128

Three pet hunting dogs: lab-mix, black female; off-white male; beagle mix female; moving. 797-1962/Lee

# Working at Marshall pays off for 'Millionaire' contestant

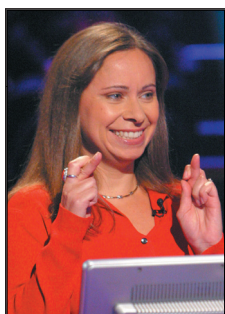
Working at the Marshall Center has paid off in more ways than one for Sherrie Super, a writer in the Public and Employee Communications Office. Super won \$100,000 on the game show, "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire," in a segment televised last week.

A key element to her success, Super said, was her "phone-a-friend" lifelines — all of whom are Marshall team members. Phone-a-friend lifelines are pre-selected by contestants to help answer a single question during the show.

"I had a lot of faith in my lifelines," said Super. "With their help, I felt guaranteed to answer at least one question correctly."

Super's lifelines were Mitzi Adams, a NASA astrophysicist at the National Space Science and Technology Center in Huntsville; Brooke Boen, the editor of numerous Marshall and NASA Web sites; and Rick Smith, a writer/editor at the NSSTC.

Adams received the call. Super phoned the astronomy expert for help with the \$25,000 question: "Once known as the 'Tears of St. Lawrence,' the Perseid meteor show is visible from Earth during which of these months? A) February, B) May, C) August, D) November."



Sherrie Super

Without hesitation, Adams answered "August." Then, concerned the question was "too good to be true," Adams also consulted a chart on her office wall — where it clearly confirmed August as the correct month. She told Super she was "100 percent" sure. Super followed Adams' advice to win a guaranteed \$25,000.

Later, Adams said she was pleasantly surprised to receive a meteor shower question. "I thought, 'I can't believe they're asking me this,'" said Adams, whose Perseid expertise has been showcased in media outlets ranging

from local radio programs to high-profile magazines such as "Popular Mechanics."

After the \$25,000 question, Super went on to answer two more questions correctly, winning \$100,000. At the \$250,000 question — seeking the unique location of the first nuclear reactor on the University of Chicago campus — Super declined to guess, preferring to walk away with her \$100,000. The answer was "squash court," but Super said she has no regrets. "I'm just so thankful for my good fortune that I feel like a million bucks," she said.

Super, Boen and Smith are employees of Ai Signal Research Inc. of Huntsville.

## Kress

### *Continued from page 1*

ties to NASA's mission in space, while simultaneously supporting advancement of science and math education initiatives in Alabama. I'm confident Marty will use these foundational successes — and his own accomplished record — to lead the center toward even greater achievements."

Kress joined Battelle in 1999 after serving more than 20 years in senior management and staff positions in NASA and the U.S. Senate. From 1995 to 1999, he was deputy director at Glenn — then known as Lewis Research Center. He also served at NASA Headquarters in 1994 as deputy director of the National Wind Tunnel Program Office, and from 1992 to 1993 as deputy director of the Space Station Freedom Program.

He came to NASA in 1990, as associate administrator for legislative affairs in Washington, where he was responsible for formulating NASA's legislative agenda on Capitol Hill. Prior to joining NASA, Kress served the U.S. Senate for more than a decade, including terms as senior energy analyst on the Senate Budget Committee and senior staff member of the Science, Technology and Space subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Kress, a Syracuse, N.Y., native, holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. He received a master's degree in public administration from Northeastern University in Boston and another, in management, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

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